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David Goddard Dies;
Leading Plant Expert

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David R. Goddard, provost emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania and former paid executive of the National Academy of Sciences, died Tuesday at Joseph Priestly House, a retirement community in the Philadelphia. He was 77 years old.

Dr. Goddard, a plant physiologist, headed three societies in his field: he was president of the American Society of Plant Physiologists, the Society of General Physiologists and the Society for the Study and Development of Growth.

His research contributed to the development of the large-scale production of penicillin, bacitracin and vitamin B2 in World War II. He later investigated the mechanisms of enzymes and cellular respiration and was one of the first botanists to demonstrate the existence of the respiratory pigment cytochrome C in plants, indicating a relation between the respiratory chains in plants and animals.

He joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1946 and was provost from 1961 to 1970. He retired in 1972, becoming provost emeritus, and continued as university professor of science and public policy until 1975, when he took a four-year term as home secretary for the National Academy of Sciences.

He was born in Carmel, Calif., and received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California at Berkeley.

He is survived by his wife, the former Katharine Evans; a son, Robert M., of Manhattan; and two grandsons.